

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: NEA/EGABINGTON:MAR

APPROVED BY: NEA:EGABINGTON

S/S:MR ORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 081575

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT DAMASCUS 2051 ACTION SECSTATE 05 APR

QUOTE

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 2051

NODIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, SY, US, UR

SUBJECT: LEBANON

REFS: (A) STATE 81279, (B) STATE 81263, (C) STATE 81282

1. RELAYED ANSWERS CONTAINED REFTELS (A) AND (B) TO DAOUDI
NOON APRIL 5. MUCH APPRECIATE RAPID REPLIES.

2. DURING OUR MEETING DAOUDI RECEIVED MENA REPORT (MIDDLE
EAST NEWS AGENCY-EGYPTIAN) QUOTING PRO-FRANGIE RADIO IN
LEBANON THAT FRANGIE HAD DECIDED TO REMAIN IN OFFICE UNTIL

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END OF HIS MANDATE. DAOUDI ALSO COMMENTED THAT EARLIER THIS

MORNING PRESIDENCY HAD MONITORED STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED JAMAYAL THAT NO PHALANGE DEPUTY WOULD PARTICIPATE IN PARLIAMENTARY SESSION HELD UNDER PROTECTION OF "FOREIGN TROOPS."

3. HE COMMENTED THAT THESE TWO STATEMENTS TAKEN IN CONJUNCTION WITH JUMBLATT'S ATTACK ON SYRIA LAST NIGHT, ALLEGING SYRIAN REGULARS UNDER SAIQA DISGUISE HAD OCCUPIED SIDON REFINERY, ADDED NEW COMPLICATIONS TO SITUATION. POSSIBLY ALL CONCERNED WERE MERELY STAKING OUT BARGAINING POSITIONS PREPARATORY TO RECONVENING OF PARLIAMENT. FOCUSSED ON CHRISTIAN STATEMENTS, HOWEVER, DAOUDI SPECULATED THEY COULD INDICATE EITHER THAT

(A) MARONITES WERE TAKING SYRIA'S SUPPORT FOR GRANTED OR

(B) THEY FELT THEIR POSITION HAD BEEN SOMEHOW STRENGTHENED BY ACTIVITIES OF AMBASSADOR BROWN.

ADDRESSING LATTER POINT, I STRESSED WE WERE KEENLY AWARE OF NECESSITY KEEPING ILLUSION FROM GROWING ON ANYONE'S PART IN LEBANON THAT THEY ENJOYED EXCLUSIVE USG BACKING.

4. REF C ALONG WITH REPEATS OF BEIRUT TRAFFIC CITED THEREIN, WAS RECEIVED HERE AFTER I RETURNED TO EMBASSY. HAD ALREADY REQUESTED MEETING WITH SHIHABI EARLIER TODAY AND AM AWAITING WORD. HE WOULD BE BEST ONE, NEXT TO PRESIDENT, TO TALK TO ABOUT SECURITY FORCE QUESTION. HOWEVER, IF SHIHABI MEETING DOES NOT MATERIALIZE BY THIS EVENING, I WILL GO BACK TO DAOUDI SOONEST. I AGREE IT VITAL THAT WE NOT EVEN APPEAR TO BE GETTING AHEAD OF SYRIANS, ABOVE ALL ON SECURITY FORCE ISSUE ON WHICH SYRIANS WILL PRE-
DICTABLY BE MOST NEURALGIC.
MURPHY UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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